

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:WDYESS:SB

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S/S - MR. GAMMON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208866

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,UR,US

SUBJECT: KUDIRKA CASE

1. SEPTEMBER 21 UPI REPORT FROM MOSCOW ON KUDIRKA CASE
BY GORDON JOSELOFF INCLUDES FOLLOWING COMMENTS, SOME OF
WHICH SEEM TO STEM FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBASSY
OFFICERS:

QUOTE: U.S. SOURCES SAY HIS CASE IS THE OBJECT OF HIGH-
LEVEL SECRET NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW.
NORMALLY, U.S. CONSULAR OFFICERS HERE WOULD SEEK TO
INTERVIEW AN AMERICAN RELEASED FROM PRISON IN ORDER TO
CLARIFY HIS STATUS.

IN KUDIRKA'S CASE, U.S. SOURCES INDICATE THIS HAS NOT
BEEN DONE, APPARENTLY NOT TO UPSET THE HIGH-LEVEL TALKS
ABOUT HIM. INNERQUOTE. WE SCREWED UP WITH HIM IN 1970
AND ARE TAKING EVERY PRECAUTION NOT TO DO ANYTHING NOW
THAT MIGHT JEOPARDIZE HIS CHANCES OF GETTING OUT, END
INNERQUOTE SAID ONE U.S. DIPLOMAT.

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KUDIRKA'S MOTHER IS APPARENTLY UNAWARE OF THE HIGH-LEVEL

TALKS ABOUT HER SON.

IN A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH FRIENDS IN THE UNITED STATES, SHE IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID SIMAS IS ILL WITH A

FEVER, IS APPREHENSIVE ABOUT LOCAL PHYSICIANS AND COMPLAINED THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN MOSCOW HAD NOT CONTACTED HIM.

IN REPLY TO THIS, A U.S. SOURCE SAID: INNERQUOTE SHE KNOWS WHERE THE EMBASSY IS AND HAS COME HERE BEFORE. SHE CAN DO IT AGAIN. END INNERQUOTE.

THE SOURCE MADE CLEAR THAT THE WORD FROM WASHINGTON IS HANDS OFF THE KUDIRKA CASE AT THIS END, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT. END QUOTE.

2. THE LINE THAT QUOTE WE CANNOT SAY ANYTHING UNQUOTE IS THE CORRECT RESPONSE. EMBASSY OFFICERS SHOULD NOT GO BEYOND THIS LINE OR ELABORATE IN ANY WAY. KISSINGER

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